
The Myths and Legends of the North American Indians by Lewis Spence
Source: *The Journal of Race Development*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (Jul., 1915), p. 107
Published by: .
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29738110>
Accessed: 01-08-2014 01:04 UTC

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The Myths and Legends of the North American Indians. By LEWIS SPENCE. London: George G. Harrap and Company. 1914. Pp. xii, 393.

In this book are collected many of the myths of the North American Indians, which are told in very interesting fashion. The primary object, to quote from the introduction "is to furnish the reader with a general view of the mythologies of the Red Man of North America, accompanied by such historical and ethnological information as will assist him in gauging the real conditions under which this most interesting section of humanity existed."

The first two chapters are introductory. The first, dealing with the divisions, customs, and history of the race, gives a brief summary of the various theories of the origin of the North American Indians. The author accepts the current view of Asiatic origin. but rather doubts the presence of man in America in the pre-Glacial period. The second chapter, dealing with the mythologies of the North American Indians, discusses the three forms of their religion, animism, totemism and fetishism. It groups together the various creation stories of the different nations and their religious ceremonies. The rest of the book is devoted to the retelling of representative myths of the Algonquins, Iroquois, Sioux, Pawnees, and the Northern and North-western Indians.

The author points out the many resemblances in these myths to European and particularly Scandinavian folk tales, but holds that they have "an atmosphere of their own which strongly differentiates them from the folk-tales of all other races."

Intervention and Colonization in Africa. By NORMAN DWIGHT HARRIS. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1914. Pp. xviii, 384.

Two of the most important changes in European civilization have taken place within recent times, the rise of capitalized industry and the expansion of European society throughout the world. The last forty years has seen a powerful impulse given to the second movement which has now practically staked out the world among the great nations of Europe and the United States. It is to this expansion that Professor Harris has given his attention and in this volume has recorded the partition of Africa with particular emphasis upon the period beginning with the decade 1870-1880 when colonial expansion entered upon its most recent